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MEN'S TENNIS



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No. 4 Barry Ends No. 2 AASU's Title Run, 5-2





Posted: May 13, 2010

ALTAMONTE SPRINGS, Fla. - The bid for three straight NCAA Division II men's tennis national championships for No. 2-ranked Armstrong Atlantic State came to an end on Thursday afternoon at the hands of the team that the Pirates had beaten in the last two title matches - No. 4-ranked Barry.

The Bucs closed out three third-set singles victories to take a 5-2 win over AASU, earning a berth in the 2010 NCAA Division II Men's Tennis semifinals. The Pirates finish their season with a 30-2 overall record - a third straight 30-win campaign for AASU.

There was quite the initial similarity between Thursday's match and the 5-4 classic won by the Pirates a year ago at Sanlando Park. As they did in 2009, Barry took a 2-1 lead after doubles play, winning at No. 2 doubles behind Emanuel Fraitzl and Marco Mokrzycki's 8-5 victory over Daniel Regan and Matus Mydla, and at No. 3 doubles behind Andrew Sharnov and Sergio Velez, who downed Eudaldo Bonet and Paul Fitzgerald, 8-6. The No. 3 doubles match began with Barry's duo owning a 6-0 lead; the Pirates fought back to 7-6, but the Bucs prevailed for the all-important second doubles point.

AASU's doubles point came from No. 3-ranked **Rafael Array** and Mikk Irdoja, an 8-1 winner over No. 10-ranked Ales Svigelj and Max Wimmer.

A year ago, only one match of the six went to three sets - Array's match-clincher. This time, four of the six matches went to a third set. The only two-setter to finish was No. 11-ranked Array's 7-5, 6-2 win over Fraitzl at No. 3 singles. Barry claimed a point at No. 6 with Velez' 6-0, 3-6, 6-3 win over Fitzgerald - handing Fitzgerald his first dual match singles loss of the year. Sharnov claimed a 5-7, 6-1, 6-2 win over Regan at No. 5 singles, then Svigelj clinched the match for the Bucs with a stunning 6-4, 0-6, 6-4 win over No. 6-ranked Bonet - Svigelj trailed 3-0 in the third set and won six of the last seven games.

Barry advances to face Concordia (NY) in the semifinals at 1 p.m. on Friday. Valdosta State and fellow PBC foe Columbus State will meet in the other semifinals.



ARMSTRONG STATE UNIVERSITY

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